

Report to Partnership Meeting 7 February 2014

PARTNERSHIP

Non Council Board Member

PURPOSE OF REPORT This Report sets out the procedures to be followed in respect of the change in circumstances of the Non Council Board Member representing Health Issues.

BACKGROUND

- 1 The membership of RTP's is outlined in the Regional Transport Partnerships (Establishment, Constitution and Membership) (Scotland) Order 2005. For HITRANS this constituted one member from each of the constituent authorities and 2-3 other non-council members. Following public advertisement and subsequent interviews HITRANS appointed 3 non-council members to the Partnership Board. In April 2008 the Partnership considered a Report giving consideration to having greater input from the health sector in the development of the Partnership where it was agreed to appoint a suitably experienced Permanent Advisor to the Board to represent the sector.
- 2 Following Mr Donald MacNeil's resignation in 2008 the Board considered appointing a non-council member to represent the health sector. The then Partnership Director discussed the proposal with NHS Highland and, following an agreement with the other Health Boards in the Highlands and Islands area, Mr Okain MacLennan was appointed as a non-council member representing the health sector. The letter from Dave Duthie to Mr Douglas Forson dated 11 March 2009 details the background to Mr MacLennan's appointment. This letter confirms that Mr MacLennan's appointment was on the basis of his knowledge of the health sector through his involvement with the NHS Highland Health Board. The letter indicated that NHS Highland would seek the agreement of the other NHS Board Chairs in the Highlands and Islands area for this health sector nomination although the letter also makes it clear that Mr MacLennan would not be formally representing NHS Highland or any of the other four Health Boards.
- 3 The input of a non Council Board Member with knowledge and interest in health matters has proved very valuable to the Partnership. This has become increasingly important as HITRANS has worked with our Health Board partners on improving the sustainability of health care related transport including on projects such as the Lochaber Integrated Transport Project

CHANGE IN STATUS

- 4 Mr MacLennan indicated to the Partnership Director in Autumn 2013 that he would be stepping down from his position as a Member of NHS Highland's Board with effect from February 2014. This early notice has allowed HITRANS to review the original appointment and establish what impact Mr MacLennan's change in status at NHS Highland would have on his role with HITRANS.

- 5 Should Mr MacLennan's membership of the Health Board end then it would be our understanding that his status on the HITRANS Board would need to be reviewed as this would call into question whether he could continue to formally represent the health sector. The options open to the Partnership Board would include:
- (1) advertising any vacancy and interviewing suitable candidates prior to making a recommendation to the Minister;
 - (2) formally seek to continue the link with the health sector and ask NHS Highland, in agreement with other Highlands and Islands Health Boards, to nominate a current Health Board Member or official to represent the health sector on HITRANS. It would be left to NHS Highland to seek confirmation from the other Highlands and Islands Health Boards on this course of action; or
 - (3) to seek confirmation from NHS Highland that, with the formal agreement of the other Highlands and Islands Health Boards, they were happy for Mr MacLennan to continue to represent the health sector at Board meetings. It would be left to NHS Highland to seek confirmation from the other Highlands and Islands Health Boards on this course of action.
- 6 In terms of the Act non-council membership of the Board should be reviewed on a periodic basis and this may present an opportune moment for the Partnership Board to review its membership and to consider whether it still wished to have a member representing the health sector bearing in mind that one of the Permanent Advisors represents NHS Highland and the other Highlands and Islands Health Boards.
- 7 Members are asked to consider the three options outlined above and recommend the resolution they would prefer from the three options.

RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 Members are asked to consider the implications of the change in status of the Board Member appointed to represent Health interests and which of the three options outlined in the "Change in Status" section of this report that should be taken forward.**

Report by: Derek Mackay
Designation: Partnership Secretary
Date: 24th January 2014